THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Uruguay Round Negotiations have not yet reached the final phase. Government is seeking charges in certain areas of the Dunkel Text to safeguard our interests.

Anti-dumping restrictions imposed by USA

*265 SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that US Government has imposed anti-dumping restriction on the import of certain Indian goods, including stainless steel items, after President Clinton has taken over his new office as US President;

(b) if so, what are the Indian goods on which such import restrictions have been imposed by US Government at the end of January, 1993; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Indian products subject to anti-dumping duties in the U.S. at present are:

(i) Steel pipes and tubes since 12th May, 1986.

(ii) Sulfanilic acid since 15th October, 1992.

(iii) Sulphur dyes since 19th October, 1992.

Anti-dumping investigations have also been initiated very recently on imports of stainless steel flange from India and Taiwan, and steel wire rods from India, Brazil and France.

Anti-dumping actions are directed at the export pricing practices of individual companies. When anti-dumping actions are taken by governments of importing countries, they have to be carried out in accordance with the multilaterally agreed disciplines on the subject incorporated in the Anti-dumping Code of GATT.

Trade Agreements with Russia

*266. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any trade agreements was signed with Russia, during the recent visit of the Russian President Boris Yetsin;

(b) if so, the terms thereof; and

(c) what is the estimated balance of trade, indicating imports from and exports to Russia, during 1992-93, so far and the contemplated volume of trade, both ways, during the ensuing year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) No Sir. A framework bilateral trade agreement with Russia valid for a period of five years